

CLAIMS

It is claimed:

1. An optical disc playback apparatus which has an optical pickup receiving reflected light from an optical disc, comprising:

a signal level detector that detects a level of a signal obtained from said reflected light; and

a determining circuit that based on said level determines which side said optical pickup is located on, an information recording area or an information non-recorded area of said optical disc.

2. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said level of said signal obtained from said reflected light is less than a predetermined reference value, said determining circuit determines that said optical pickup is located on said information non-recorded area side.

3. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said optical pickup is located on said information non-recorded area side, said optical pickup is made to move.

4. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said optical pickup is located on said information non-recorded area side, said optical pickup is made to move.

5. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:
an optical pickup position detector that detects whether said optical pickup is located on an inner circumference side of said optical disc,
wherein based on a detecting result of said optical pickup position detector, said optical pickup is made to move.
6. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:
an optical pickup position detector that detects whether said optical pickup is located on an inner circumference side of said optical disc,
wherein based on a detecting result of said optical pickup position detector, said optical pickup is made to move.
7. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.
8. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.
9. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

10. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

11. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

12. The optical disc playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said signal obtained from said reflected light is an RF signal, and said level is a peak-to-peak difference value of the RF signal.

13. The optical disc playback apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein said determining circuit determines the position of said optical pickup based on the level of said signal obtained from said reflected light during a predetermined time period.

14. A method for detecting a mirror surface of an optical disc, wherein a level of a signal obtained from reflected light from an optical disc is detected, and based on said level, it is determined which side said optical pickup is located on, an information recording area or an information non-recorded area of said optical disc.